**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 27, 2017

To: 4-H’ers and Parents

From: Keli Boone

 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent

 Gates County

RE: Interested in the Albemarle Area 4-H Livestock Judging Team

The Albemarle Area 4-H Livestock Judging Team will be holding an interest meeting for anyone from the 5 county area that would like to learn more and participate with the judging team during the 2017 calendar year.  The team is open to any 4-H youth ages 9 to 19 (4-H age) from Camden, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank, & Perquimans Counties.  The interest meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at the Pasquotank Extension Office located at 1209 McPherson Street, Elizabeth City NC.  The meeting will begin at 6 PM and will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes.  The regularly scheduled livestock judging team practice will follow immediately after the interest meeting for those who would like to stay and observe a practice session.

The primary coach for the judging team is Jennifer Perry, however, several Extension Agents assist her from time to time, along with other 4-H parent volunteers in handling various tasks.  Participating 4-H’ers will need to have their annual 4-H enrollment forms copied and sent over to the Camden County Extension Office, as that is the administering office for this 4-H group.

The Albemarle Area 4-H Livestock Judging Team is a great opportunity for youth to learn more about their animal science project, learn the various cuts of meat, animal parts, terminology, current market & breeding trends for the various livestock species, along with life skills such as critical thinking skills, decision making, teamwork, communication skills, just to name a few.  There will be several trips to judging contests, farm tours, and judging camps.  Fundraising will also be a priority for this 4-H group.  Therefore, we are looking for active, hardworking 4-H’ers that are truly interested in learning more about livestock judging.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, March 1st at 6 PM at the Pasquotank Extension Office.  We will discuss everything mentioned above and more.  If you are interested in learning more and/or participating but cannot attend this meeting, please contact your 4-H Extension Agent and let them know prior to March 1st.  We want to make sure we have everyone on the contact/participation list.